Pete Johnson
1170 Stroud Ct.,
Westerville, OH 43081

5/4/94

Dear Mr. Johnson,

Perhaps it is part of an answer to your questions to tell you that as I wrote it, Case Open was 4-5 times longer and had the title Hoax: the Gerald Posner/Random House/ CIA JFK Assassination Exploitation.

There is no way of knowing with any certainty why the major media and much of the minor just fall in line behind any support for or endorsement of the official JFK assassination mythology. I think perhps the most certain reason is that it covers up for their failures, for their endless earlier support for all that junk.

I think that Random House just assumed this would be the case and found out they were correct in their assumption.

I do not, however, believe that any media support for the official fictions is helpful to sales. The people have more common sense. I therefore know of no commercial reason that could have persuaded US News to pay what it did to be able to use Posner's crap. So that they would all go for such guff is not easily explained save perhaps that it makes them feel good to support official mythologies. And, of course, with some that crap is what they have always believed and wanted believed.

I doubt the CIA did anything to help sell ancillary rights.

There are some things we have no way of knowing. I do not know what the sale of the Posner stuff is in hardback or in ancillary rights. I'm inclined to think it was disappointing in harback sales, exciting in the sales of secondary uses.

Sorrt I can't give you more of any answer.

Best Wishes,

Harold Weisberg